

2016



# Louisiana Freshwater Finfish Commercial Rules and Regulations

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



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## Harvesters

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## Saltwater/Freshwater Line

Louisiana's salt and freshwater areas are divided by a line that runs from the Intracoastal Waterway from the Texas-Louisiana boundary to its junction with Louisiana Highway 27 at Gibbstown, south to Louisiana Highway 82, east to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway from Forked Island to Bayou Barataria to the Harvey Canal, the Harvey Canal to the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River to the Industrial Canal, the Industrial Canal to the Intracoastal Waterway, the Intracoastal Waterway to the Rigolets in Orleans Parish to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Bridge, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad right-of way from the Orleans Parish line to the Mississippi state line. Areas to the north of this line are freshwater.



## Commercial Harvester Licenses and Fees

To harvest finfish commercially in Louisiana's freshwater areas, you must have the following LDWF-issued licenses:

- A **Commercial Fisherman's License\*** (\$55 resident, \$460 nonresident)
- **Gear Licenses\*** for the fishing gear you're using (*see page 4*)

\*If you are a Louisiana resident, age 70 or older, you may instead purchase a **Senior Commercial License** (includes gear license) for \$20.

You must have additional special permits to harvest some species and/or use certain gears (*see pages 4-6 and 10*).

To sell finfish you have caught to anyone who doesn't have a Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License (besides consumers) or transport your catch out-of-state, you must have a **Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License** (\$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident).

To sell finfish you have caught directly to consumers within the state, you must have a **Fresh Products License** (\$20 resident, \$120 nonresident). Your spouse must purchase a **Fresh Products-Spouse License** for \$5 to sell directly to consumers.

To apply for LDWF-issued licenses, call **225.765.2898** or visit LDWF's Headquarters at **2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge**. Renew your licenses online at **[www.la.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.la.wildlifelicense.com)**.

## General Gear License Fees, Requirements, and Restrictions

<b>Bow and arrow</b>	License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident
<b>Cans, buckets, pipes, drums</b>	License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)
<b>Cast net</b>	License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident
<b>Dip net</b>	License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident
<b>Eel pot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• You may only use eel pots to harvest eel. If you catch any other fish with this gear, you must immediately return it unharmed to the water.</li> <li>• Must be no longer than 48 inches and mesh must be at least 1/2 inch.</li> <li>• Throats or flues must be smaller than 3 inches in diameter at their narrowest point and no larger than 5 inches in diameter at their widest point.</li> <li>• You may not connect lead or wings or use them in conjunction with an eel pot.</li> </ul>
<b>Garfish gig</b>	License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (per gig)
<b>Gill net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• Net must not exceed 1,200 feet in length and mesh must be at least 3 inches square or 6 inches stretched after treating with tar or copper.</li> <li>• You must attach waterproof tags with your name and license number to the corkline at the end of each net, no more than 3 feet from the webbing edge.</li> </ul>
<b>Hoop net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• Mesh must be at least 1 inch square or 2 inches stretched after treating with tar or copper.</li> <li>• You may only use wings and leads in overflow regions (where the water is out of the bed of the natural stream or lake). You must set them at least 500 feet from the bed. Wings or leads must be at least 100 feet apart. Leads must not exceed 25 feet in length. You may not use a hoop net with leads to harvest mullet.</li> </ul>
<b>Minnow trap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• Throats or flues must not exceed 1 inch in width.</li> <li>• You may only use minnow traps to harvest minnows for bait.</li> </ul>
<b>Seine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• Net must not exceed 1,200 feet in length and mesh must be at least 2 inches square or 4 inches stretched after treating with tar or copper.</li> </ul>
<b>Set lines (trot, bush, yo-yos, triggers, etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• Trotline hooks must be at least 24 inches apart.</li> </ul>
<b>Shad gill net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident</li> <li>• You must hold a special Shad Gill Net License to use this gear. This license allows you to harvest shad and skipjack herring in Lac Des Allemands, Lakes Palourde and Verret, any Iberville Parish waterway, and those portions of Iberia, St. Martin, and St. Mary Parishes located between the guide levees of the Atchafalaya Basin. You may not harvest shad or skipjack in streams, bayous, canals, and other water bodies connected with these lakes. You may only use gill nets to take shad or skipjack; however, you may keep up to 25 other commercial fish. Heads and caudal fins of all fish on board the vessel must be intact. You may not harvest shad or skipjack on Saturday or Sunday. The season is closed from July through October.</li> <li>• Net must not exceed 1,200 feet long; mesh size must be at least 1 inch bar or 2 inches stretched but no more than 2 inch bar or 4 inches stretched.</li> <li>• One shad gill net per licensee per vessel</li> <li>• A 1-gallon jug painted international orange and marked, in black letters, with the words "Shad Gill Net" must be attached to each end of the net.</li> <li>• You must attach waterproof tags with your full name and license number to your net.</li> <li>• You must place nets at least 50 feet from the tree line.</li> <li>• Never leave your net unattended.</li> <li>• Only strike fishing is allowed. Once you deploy the net, it must remain stationary until you remove the fish from the net or retrieve it from the water.</li> </ul>

<b>Shad seine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident</li> <li>• May be used for shad, skipjack herring, and any other legal-sized freshwater commercial fish. Heads and caudal fins of all fish on board the vessel must be intact.</li> <li>• Net must not exceed 1,200 feet in length and mesh must be at least 1 inch bar and 2 inches stretched but no more than 2 inch bar and 4 inches stretched. No monofilament mesh.</li> <li>• One shad seine per licensee per vessel</li> <li>• Never leave your net unattended.</li> <li>• A 1-gallon jug painted international orange and marked, in black letters, with the words “Shad Seine” must be attached to each end of the net.</li> <li>• You must attach waterproof tags with your full name and license number to your net.</li> <li>• May only be used in freshwater areas of the state, except where seines are prohibited, the Pearl River, and the Pearl River navigational canal.</li> </ul>
<b>Slat trap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• May only be used to capture catfish.</li> <li>• At least one pair of slats must be at least 1 inch apart from each other on at least three sides of the trap.</li> <li>• Trap must be less than 6 feet in length, 2 feet in diameter or width.</li> <li>• Trap must have one or more cone-shaped throats, flues, or entrances.</li> </ul>
<b>Spear gun</b>	License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (per spear gun)
<b>Trammel net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• Net must not exceed 1,200 feet and mesh must be at least 3 inches square or 6 inches stretched after treating with tar or copper.</li> <li>• You must attach waterproof tags with your name and license number to the corkline at the end of each net, no more than 3 feet from the webbing edge.</li> </ul>
<b>Wire net</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License fee: \$25 resident, \$100 nonresident (any legal number)</li> <li>• Net mesh must be at least 1 inch square or 2 inches stretched; wire mesh must be 5 inches or larger to support the webbing.</li> </ul>

## Additional Gear Requirements and Restrictions by Water Body

TROTLINES AND YO-YOS	
<b>Black-Clear Lake, Caddo Lake, Chicot Lake, Prairie Lake, Lake Lafourche, &amp; Lake St. Joseph</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must tag trotlines with your name, address, phone number, and the date you placed the line. You must mark each end of the line with a visible floating object. You must attach an 8-foot cotton leader on each end to ensure that if the trotline is left unattended, the leader will deteriorate and the line will sink. You may set no more than three trotlines with no more than 50 hooks per line and must attend them daily.</li> <li>• You may not use more than 50 yo-yos or trigger devices. You must clearly tag each device with your name, address, and phone number. You may not attach them to a metallic object or anchor them with any artificial object. You may only anchor them to an existing pier, boathouse, seawall, or dock—you may not use any object such as rebar, cane, PVC tubing, or construction material to anchor a yo-yo or trigger device to a water bottom, stump, tree, or shoreline. You must rebait each yo-yo or trigger device at least once every 24 hours. You must immediately remove all fish or any other animals caught or hooked on the device.</li> </ul>
<b>Poverty Point Lake</b>	You may not use trotlines or yo-yos.
NETS	
<b>Anacoco Bayou and Lake</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Lake Bartholomew</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Lake Bistineau</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets.

<b>Black Bayou Reservoir</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may not use fish seines, gill nets, or trammel nets.</li> <li>You may not use hoop nets, slat traps, or wire nets from March 1 to October 31.</li> </ul>
<b>Bogue Chitto River</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may not use any seines, nets, or webbing in the Bogue Chitto River from where it enters the state in northern Washington Parish to where it enters the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish.</li> <li>You may not take fish from logs, buckets, barrels, drums, or natural or artificial nesting areas by hand grabbing.</li> </ul>
<b>Bundick Lake</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Caddo Lake</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Caney Creek Reservoir</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Lake Charles</b>	You may not use butterfly nets or shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet, fish seines, gill nets, strike nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Lake Claiborne</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Lake Concordia</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Cross Lake</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Cypress Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may not use fish seines, gill nets, or trammel nets.</li> <li>You may not use hoop nets, slat traps, or wire nets from March 1 to October 31.</li> </ul>
<b>Chicot Lake</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets.
<b>D'Arbonne Lake</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, or trammel nets.
<b>False River Lake, Lake Bruin, &amp; Lake Providence</b>	You may only use gill and trammel nets from October 1 through sunset on the last day of February of the following year. Net mesh must be at least 3-1/2 inches square (7 inches stretched). You may leave gear overnight but may only remove fish during daylight hours.
<b>Fool River</b>	You may not use fish seines.
<b>John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, trammel nets, or wire nets.
<b>Lacassine Bayou</b>	You may not use gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets from March 1 to November 30. <i>(The portion that flows through Lacassine National Refuge)</i>
<b>Moss Lake</b>	You may not use butterfly nets or shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet, fish seines, gill nets, strike nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Nantachie Lake</b>	No nets allowed.
<b>Poverty Point Lake</b>	No nets allowed.
<b>Prien Lake</b>	You may not use butterfly nets or shrimp trawls longer than 16 feet, fish seines, gill nets, strike nets, or trammel nets.
<b>Tchefuncte River</b>	You may not use any seines, nets, or webbing in this river or its tributaries, from its origin in Washington Parish to where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish.
<b>Toledo Bend Reservoir</b>	You may not use hoop nets from March 1 to May 15 (only in that portion of the reservoir from a point north of Logansport where the lake enters Texas and south to a point on the lake where the Texas Duck Refuge Canal intersects the Old Channel of the Sabine River).
<b>Lake Vernon</b>	You may not use fish seines, gill nets, hoop nets, or trammel nets.
<b>TRAPS</b>	
<b>Lake Bruin</b>	You may only use slat traps from October 1 through sunset on the last day of February of the following year. You may leave gear overnight but may only remove fish during daylight hours.
<b>Poverty Point Lake</b>	You may not use slat traps.
<b>Tchefuncte River</b>	You may not use any traps in this river or its tributaries, from its origin in Washington Parish to where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish.

## Prohibited Gear

You may not use any of the following types of gear in state freshwater areas:

Spears (except garfish)	Poisons
Stupefying substances or devices	Explosives
Guns	Tree-topping devices
Lead nets (exception: leads on hoop nets set at least 500 feet from a stream bed in overflow regions)	Electric shocking instruments or devices
Snagging devices (not including bows and arrows; exceptions: catfish, garfish taken by spears)	Elevated trotlines (except in exempt areas)

You may not use any aircraft including fixed-wing aircraft, dirigibles, balloons, helicopters, or any other form of aerial surveillance to assist in harvesting finfish, except herring-like fish.

## Bait

You may use the following gear to harvest minnows, shrimp, and other baits permitted by law:

- Seines no longer than 30 feet and with mesh no larger than 1/4 inch
- Cast nets with a radius of less than 8-1/2 feet
- Dip nets no larger than 3 feet in diameter
- Minnow traps

## Area Restrictions

*Free fish passage* Do not set gear, such as trawls, nets, or seines, within 500 feet of the mouth of any inlet or pass or within 500 feet of any water control structures, dams, or weirs. This ensures fish can pass freely through these areas.

*Louisiana/Mississippi border* When fishing in border waters, you must attach waterproof tags with your full name and license number to trotlines, snag lines, hoop nets, gill nets, and trammel nets, in lieu of tags required by Mississippi regulations. You must place the tag

within 5 feet of one end on trot and snag lines, on the first hoop on hoop nets, and on the float line within 5 feet of one end on gill and trammel nets. Louisiana fishermen using slat traps or baskets in border waters must obtain tags from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

*Impoundments* You may not use nets to harvest fish in freshwater impoundments during water drawdown periods, unless LDWF specifies otherwise. Closures begin on the date the drawdown control structure opens and continues until the lake is full again.

*Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Refuges* Commercial fishing is **permitted** in:

- Fort Polk (specific regulations pertaining to fishing are posted at specific lakes)
- Grassy Lake\*, except in Smith Bay, Red River Bay, and Grassy Lake on Saturday and Sunday and during waterfowl season
- Pomme de Terre\*, except on the weekends and during duck season
- Richard K. Yancey, except during regular waterfowl seasons in Grand Bay, Silver Lake, and Lower Sunk Lake
- Spring Bayou\* (Monday through Friday and after 2 pm during waterfowl season). However, you may use slat traps and hoop nets any day, you may never use gill or trammel nets, and you may not harvest grass carp.

\*You must have a permit to fish Grassy Lake, Pomme de Terre, and Spring Bayou WMAs. Permits are available from **Spring Bayou Headquarters** or the **Opelousas Field Office** at **337.948.0255**.

Commercial fishing is **prohibited** in Ouachita WMA.



A large blue catfish is shown underwater, swimming towards the right. Its long whiskers are prominent, and its body is covered in a mottled pattern. The background is a dark, murky underwater environment.

THE  
TOP FRESHWATER  
FISH HARVESTED BY  
LOUISIANA COMMERCIAL  
FISHERMEN ARE BLUE  
CATFISH, CHANNEL  
CATFISH, AND  
BUFFALOFISH.



## Prohibited Freshwater Species

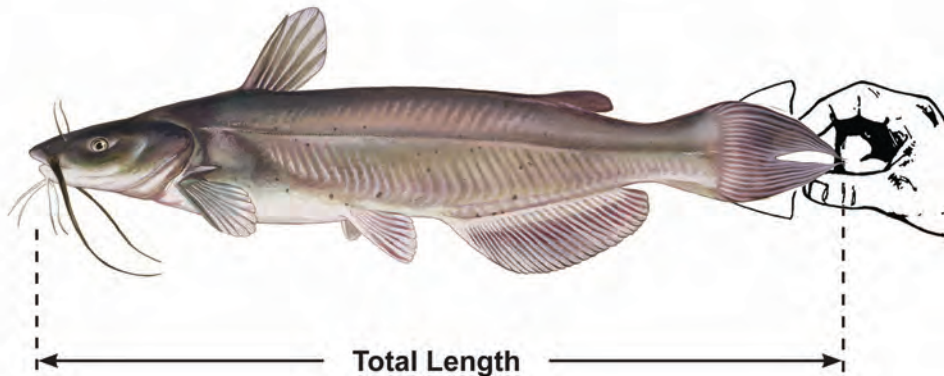
You may not commercially harvest the following freshwater species:

Largemouth bass	Hybrid striped bass
Shadow bass	Spotted bass
Striped bass	Yellow bass
Bream (any species)	Black crappie
White crappie	Paddlefish (spoonbill catfish)
Atlantic, pallid, and shovelnose sturgeons (whole or any body parts, including roe)	All species of piranha
All species of tilapia	Rio Grand cichlid
Freshwater electric eel	Rudd
All members of the family <i>Synbranchida</i> (Asian swamp eels)	<i>Channidae</i> (snakeheads)
<i>Clariidae</i> (walking catfishes)	<i>Trichomycteridae</i> (pencil catfishes)

## Measuring Fish

First, place the fish on its side on a flat board with its jaw closed.

For **total length**, measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin. Squeeze the tail so you can determine the maximum length of the fish.



*Fish illustration by Duane Raver.*

## Compliance and Enforcement

Through events, outreach materials, and resources, LDWF works hard to make sure fishermen understand relevant rules and regulations. LDWF's Law Enforcement Division is responsible for ensuring compliance with these rules and regulations through regular patrols and investigations. Penalties for violations vary with the severity of the violation and include fines, jail time, loss of fishing license, and forfeiture of property.

### Did you know?

- The majority of Louisiana commercial freshwater fishermen live in St. Mary, Iberville, Assumption, and Avoyelles parishes.
- Most freshwater commercial fishermen in Louisiana use vessels 19 feet long or smaller.
- Minnows command the highest dockside price among commercial freshwater finfish species.

## Species Regulations

You must return undersized fish back to the water unharmed; 5% (by number) of each species of commercial fish you harvest may be smaller than the legal limit, except channel catfish of which 10% (by number) may be smaller. No one (commercial fishermen, dealers, retailers, and restaurants) may sell, purchase, barter, trade, or exchange undersized fish (or attempt to do any of these activities).

You may harvest commercial species with no specified size limit in any size and quantity.

For the most current information, go to [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/commercial-finish](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/commercial-finish).

Species	Size Limit	Harvest Limit	Season/Times	Other
<b>Blue catfish</b>	12 inches minimum total length	5% may be smaller than the legal limit	Year-round	
<b>Buffalo (smallmouth, bigmouth, and black)</b>	16 inches minimum total length	5% may be smaller than the legal limit	Year-round	
<b>Channel catfish</b>	11 inches minimum total length	10% may be smaller than the legal limit	Year-round	
<b>Flathead catfish</b>	14 inches minimum total length	5% may be smaller than the legal limit	Year-round	
<b>Freshwater drum</b>	12 inches minimum total length	5% may be smaller than the legal limit	Year-round	
<b>Bowfin</b>	22 inches minimum total length	5% may be smaller than the legal limit	Closed December through February, except in Assumption, Avoyelles, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Terrebonne, Tangipahoa, and West Baton Rouge parishes, and in the areas know as Bayou Courtableau, Bayou Teche, Lake Dauterive, Lake Fausse Point, Vermilion River, Carencro Bayou, Queue de Tortue Bayou, Bayou Nez Pique, Mermentau River, Bayou Lacassine, Sabine River, and the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway that is bounded by the east and west levees of the Atchafalaya Basin and is south of U.S. Highway 190.	
<b>Shad and skipjack herring</b>	None	No limit for properly licensed shad gill net and seine fishermen	Closed July through October. During open season, you may take shad and skipjack during the day or night, but you may not harvest shad or skipjack on Saturday or Sunday.	You must be properly licensed to harvest shad and skipjack herring with shad gill nets or seines ( <i>see pages 4-5</i> ).
<b>Asian/grass, silver, bighead, and black carp</b>	None	None	None	You may harvest, possess, and sell these species as long as they are dead.



LOUISIANA  
FISHERMEN  
HARVESTED 4.3  
MILLION POUNDS  
OF FRESHWATER  
CATFISH  
IN 2014.



# Industry Support

## Louisiana Wild Seafood Certification Program (LWSCP)



Through LWSCP, LDWF aims to build a brand that guarantees the origin of Louisiana wild-caught seafood. Through strict chain of custody requirements, the program guarantees that all seafood products bearing the

Certified Louisiana Seafood label were caught in Louisiana or Gulf waters by a licensed Louisiana fisherman, landed at a Louisiana dock, and processed and packaged by a Louisiana-based company. The program provides education for participants on best seafood handling and sanitation practices to ensure the utmost safety and quality. When a buyer sees this label, they can be confident they're buying authentic Louisiana wild-caught seafood, a premium product known for freshness, consistent quality, and sustainability, and that they're supporting our local fishing communities.

By branding and showcasing Louisiana seafood, LWSCP helps suppliers increase the value of their seafood and remain competitive in the marketplace. LWSCP participants benefit from free marketing support, such as:

- Market portal linking Certified Louisiana Seafood suppliers with buyers
- Promotions through the program website, social media, and events including seafood festivals and industry conventions
- Point-of-sale materials such as decals, brochures, and apparel
- Access to program partners including the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, Audubon GULF, NOAA Fisheries, Louisiana Sea Grant, and other partners who purchase and promote Certified Louisiana Seafood.

Licensed Louisiana commercial fishermen are automatically eligible for the program; licensed Louisiana Fresh Products dealers and Wholesale/Retail Seafood dealers must obtain a permit to participate. They must also comply with all state and federal permitting and reporting requirements. Find out more or sign up to participate at [www.LouisianaCertifiedSeafood.com](http://www.LouisianaCertifiedSeafood.com).

## Seafood Technology Equipment Program (STEP)

STEP provides LWSCP participants with funding to improve their equipment to increase the quality and value of their seafood, critical elements of the premium Louisiana seafood brand. Since 2012, STEP has provided more than \$1.7 million to members of Louisiana's seafood industry, including grants for docks and processors to upgrade equipment to meet Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals requirements. LDWF staff are improving the funding process, assessing future needs of the industry, and will be developing funding initiatives to meet those needs. For more information, call **225.765.3980** or **1.855.262.1764 (toll-free)**.

## Louisiana Fisheries Forward (LFF)

LFF is a voluntary education and training program for members of Louisiana's seafood community. Created by LDWF and Louisiana Sea Grant, LFF delivers training videos and fact sheets on a number of topics such as how to be a commercial fisherman and seafood business finance and management as well as hands-on workshops, training days, and demonstrations to showcase new technology and best practices. LFF's goal is to help improve the economic success of Louisiana's commercial fishing industry. Learn more at [lafisheriesforward.org](http://lafisheriesforward.org).

# Buyers and Sellers

## Licenses and Permits

To purchase and resell fish in Louisiana, you must have one of the following licenses issued by LDWF, unless otherwise noted:		
If you:	You must have a:	Notes:
Buy fish in Louisiana from licensed commercial fishermen for sale or resale	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License	\$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident. You may only purchase species of fish for which a special permit is required (ex: mullet, reef fish, shark, spotted seatrout, tuna, etc.) from commercial fishermen who possess the required permit. You may be required to have special permits when purchasing federally regulated species from commercial fishermen. There are no restrictions on whom you may sell fish to.
Buy fish in Louisiana from licensed commercial fishermen for sale or resale from a vehicle	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer Vehicle License	Same as above
Buy fish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer for sale to consumers for personal or household use	Retail Seafood Dealer License	\$105 resident, \$405 nonresident. You may not purchase fish from a commercial fisherman.
Buy fish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer for sale to consumers for personal or household use from a vehicle	Retail Seafood Dealer Vehicle License	Same as above
Are a restaurant or grocer buying fish from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer and selling it raw such as sushi	Retail Seafood Dealer License	\$105 resident, \$405 nonresident. You may not purchase fish from a commercial fisherman.
Are a restaurant or grocer picking up fish directly from a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer and transporting it	Retail Seafood Dealer License and applicable transport license(s)	\$105 resident, \$405 nonresident.
Are a commercial fisherman selling fish to anyone who doesn't have a Louisiana Wholesale/Retail Dealer License (besides consumers) or transporting your catch out-of-state	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License	\$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident
Are a commercial fisherman selling fish directly to consumers within the state	Fresh Products License	\$20 resident, \$120 nonresident. A \$5 Resident Fresh Products-Spouse License is also available for a commercial fisherman's spouse to sell directly to consumers.

## Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

Dealers and retailers must keep records of the following for 3 years:

- The quantity and species of fish you purchase, the date of purchase, and the full name and license and/or permit number of the commercial fisherman, wholesale/retail dealer, or out-of-state seller from whom you purchase the fish
- The quantity and species of fish you sell and the name and license number of the person to whom you sell it
- Quantity and species of fish and the date you sell it to consumers
- The number by head count of fish which have creel limits

Dealers and retailers purchasing from commercial fishermen or anyone other than a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer or fresh products licenseholder must report these transactions every month on LDWF-issued trip tickets, documenting information about the purchase, including what it is, where and how it was caught, sizes, quantities, etc. Commercial fishermen who sell their catch directly to consumers (fresh products licenseholders) must also complete and submit trip tickets. For details, call **225.765.2371**.

## Shipping Requirements

You must mark all vehicles used to transport fish with the name and address of your company. You must also plainly mark all shipments containing fish and attach records, tags, or certificates showing your name and the receiver's name, an itemized statement of the number of pounds of fish, and the names of each kind or species of fish in the shipment.

To operate any commercial transport vehicle and load, unload, or transport fish, you must have one of the following LDWF-issued licenses:		
If you:	You must have a:	Notes:
Are a commercial fisherman transporting your catch to a wholesale/retail dealer	Commercial Fisherman's License	\$55 resident, \$460 nonresident
Are a licensed wholesale/retail seafood dealer delivering seafood	Seafood Transport License	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Are a licensed retail seafood dealer picking up seafood from a wholesale/retail dealer and transporting it to your place of business	Seafood Transport License	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Are transporting a licensed commercial fisherman's catch to a wholesale/retail dealer for sale	Seafood Transport License	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Are a wholesale/retail seafood dealer	Seafood Transport License purchased with the dealer license	\$30 for residents and nonresidents
Ship seafood out of state	Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer License OR Transport License purchased in connection with the dealer license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dealer License: \$250 resident, \$1,105 nonresident</li> <li>• Transport License: \$30 for residents and nonresidents</li> </ul>



# Louisiana Finfish Facts

12.2  
million

pounds of  
freshwater finfish were  
landed by commercial  
fishermen in Louisiana  
in 2014-2015.

71%

of active freshwater  
commercial fishermen  
in Louisiana harvest  
catfish.

25

The average years  
of experience of  
a commercial  
freshwater fisherman  
in Louisiana.

## Get Involved!

To manage Louisiana's finfish fisheries, LDWF and the Commission rely on scientific data and landings records as well as public input. Our decisions directly impact you, so it's important that we have your input as we define management goals and strategies. We encourage you to participate in the management process to ensure that we consider your interests and that you understand the regulatory process and resulting management actions.

LDWF will be creating a Finfish Task Force with representatives from the finfish industry and relevant state agencies. The task force will meet regularly and will be responsible for advising LDWF and the Commission on managing and developing the finfish industry in Louisiana. Meetings will be open to the public. Email [awest@wlf.la.gov](mailto:awest@wlf.la.gov) for more information.

The Commission's monthly meetings and our open regulatory process provide additional opportunities for public input.

## Text and Email Alerts

Sign up to receive text and/or email notifications about season openings and closings, regulatory changes, and task force and Commission meetings at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/signup](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/signup).



Drop us a line

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225.765.2800  
[www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/commercial-finfish](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/commercial-finfish)